

MALI AFRICA RISING WORKSHOP



26-27 February, 2015

Sikasso, Mali

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Feed the Future Initiative, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is supporting an innovative multi-stakeholder agricultural research program, the Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING). The program's main objective is to identify and validate scalable options for sustainable intensification of key African cereal-based farming systems to increase food production and improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers and at the same time conserve or improve the natural resource base.

Africa RISING is a five-year research program with three regional projects launched in 2011. It brings together a wide range of research and development partners from the CGIAR and the national agricultural research and extension systems, farmers, input and output dealers, and policy makers to develop management practices and technology combinations to better integrate crops (cereals, legumes and vegetables), livestock (including poultry), trees and shrubs in mixed-farming systems with the aim of improving whole-farm productivity, nutrition, and incomes of small-farm families without degrading the environment. It also develops innovations that effectively link farmers to markets and input suppliers.

Africa RISING project in Mali is led by ICRISAT with contributions from ILRI, ICRAF, AVRDC, IER, MoBioM, AMEDD, CAAD, GRADCOM and AMASSA through five defined work packages (WP1, WP5, WP6, WP9 and WP10):

- **Work-package WP-1:** Socio-economic studies on sustainable intensification in the West African Guinea and Sudan Savanna (Mali & Ghana)
- **Work-package WP-5:** Improving farm and field productivity and profitability in Mali
- **Work-package WP-6:** Intensifying livestock and poultry production in Ghana and Mali
- **Work-package WP-9:** Managing natural resources to increase watershed productivity in southern Mali
- **Work-package WP-10:** Improving household nutrition through agricultural and behavioral change communication and value addition in Ghana and Mali

The Africa RISING Mali chapter has organized two days science workshop (26-27 February 2015) in Sikasso to review results of previous years and identify the main findings of the project. All project members (including CG and local partners and farmers) were invited for the workshop. Detail program outline is presented in Annex 1 and list of participants is presented in Annex 2.

PRESENTATIONS

The opening remark was made by the Deputy Director of IER regional Center of Sikasso Mr. Amadou Malle KOUYATE. After the opening remark brief introduction of the Africa RISING Project in West Africa was made by Dr. Birhanu Zemadim, Mali program coordinator. Synergistic project with Africa RISING in Mali that includes ARDT-SMS, USAID GCC and FARMSEM were presented by respective representatives of the projects. These presentations helped to identify areas of integration and opportunities for partnership and cross learning. Representatives of the two local NGOs AMEDD and MoBioM discussed the program new developments in the two identified villages (Flola in Bougouni and M'Pessoba in Koutiala). These developments are related to establishment of Technology Parks. After this project partners were given the opportunity to present their findings (Figure 1 a) according to the program outlined in Annex 1. Full presentations for the two days meeting are available with the following dropbox link:



Figure 1 (a) AMASSA field technician presenting her findings (b) Invited farmers sharing their views during plenary discussion

DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants discussed presentations made by each scientist and representatives of the local NGOs. From the presentations it was agreed that most planned activities were carried out by partner institutes and data analysis was going on according to the plan. Other issues raised during the discussion were:

- Improvements in local level field trial implementation. This further requires close discussion with the implementing partner (the local NGO) and scientists from the CG centers.
- Close monitoring of established trials are the responsibility of scientists and their counterparts in the local NGO.
- Improvements are required for technology uptake by farmers which is not always easy.
- Extra effort is required to avail budget to all partners in time.
- Management and sustainability of technology parks and innovation platforms and their integration in other research teams need to be looked at.
- Creating some synergy actions around project activities for all project stakeholders by improving communication among researchers and partners. The purpose of this synergy is to allow each partner know who is doing what? where? and when? This will give opportunity for collaboration among project stakeholders for better results.
- The need to involve local government authorities to improve the quality of the research findings, for example our work on local conventions and watershed programs
- Strengthening trials monitoring systems at partner NGOs' level as well research teams' level.
- Each partner institute in collaboration with local NGO need to conduct a study to measure the level of technology uptake by farmers while conducting the research.

CONCLUSION

All participants agreed that the meeting objectives were achieved. The presence of farmers among scientists and partners NGOs in the meeting was very well appreciated. The workshop allowed to have feedbacks from farmers on the impact of some technologies uptaken by farmers (see Figure 1b). For example an invited farmer Mr Adama Berthé witnessed he harvested 2.5 tons of cotton from his field that was treated with contour bunding against 1.2 tons of cotton from a field without any treatment. Female farmers witnessed how nutrition component in this project impacted their daily life by improving children health and the quality of their own life.

Compiled by Cedrick Guedessou, Dicko Mamamadou, Marc Traore and Birhanu Zemadim

Annex 1: Africa RISING workshop in Sikasso

| Date : 26 /02/ 2015 | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Time | Activity | Facilitator |
| 08:00-09:00 | Registration | Marc Traore |
| 09:00-09:15 | Welcome remark by Deputy director of IER Mr. Amadou Malle KOUYATE | Mr. Marc Traore |
| 09:15-09:30 | Brief introduction of Africa RISING Project in West Africa | Dr. Birhanu Zemadim |
| 08:30-09:45 | Mali Africa RISING 2014 Activities presented by ALL | Mr. Marc Traore |
| 09:45-10:00 | Synergistic project with Africa RISING. Opportunities for partnership and cross learning: ARDT-SMS | Dr. John Nzungize |
| 10:00-10:15 | Synergistic project with Africa RISING. Opportunities for partnership and cross learning: USAID-GCC | Mr. Sinare Boubacar |
| 10:15-10:30 | Africa RISING new developments-Technology Park developments. Representative from local NGO (AMEDD/MoBioM) | Mr. Aruna Bayoko & Mr. Sidibe supported |
| 10:30-10:45 | Plenary Discussion: Main Issues; Target Beneficiaries and Coordination | Mr. Bougouna Sogoba |
| 10:45-11:00 | COFFEE AND GROUP PHOTO | Mr. Marc Traore |
| 11:00-11:30 | Presentation on main finding: data by ICRAF | Drs. Joachim & Catherine |
| 11:30-12:00 | Presentation on activities: data by AMASSA | Mrs. Diallo |
| 12:00-12:30 | Presentation on main finding: data by AVRDC | Drs. Albert & Caroline |
| 12:30-13:00 | Presentation on main finding: Crop intensification options, agronomic practices and nutrition in Koutiala | Mr. Mamourou |
| 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH | |
| 14:00-14:30 | Presentation on main finding: data by ILRI | Mrs. Clarisse Umutoni |
| 14:30-15:00 | Presentation on activities: data by AMEDD | Mr. Arouna Bayoko |
| 15:00-15:45 | Discussion : Plenary | |
| 15:45-16:00 | COFFEE | |
| 16:00-16:30 | Presentation on main finding : Crop intensification options of agronomic practices in Bougouni | Mary Ollenburger |
| 16:30-17:00 | Presentation on main finding : Biophysical characterization of Africa RISING villages | Dr. Birhanu Zemadim |
| 17:00-17:30 | Presentation on main finding : Farmers organizations and their roles in Koutiala and Bougouni | Cedrick & Dicko |
| Date : 27 /02/ 2015 | | |
| 09:00-09:30 | Presentation on IER activities | Dr. Ousman Sanogo |
| 09:30-09:45 | Presentation on activities: data by MoBioM | Sidibé & Maiga |
| 09:45-10:15 | Groundnut program activities in Koutiala and Bougouni | Mr. Dekoro Dembele/CAAD/GRADCOM |
| 10:15-10:45 | Discussion : Plenary | Dr. Joachim Binam |
| 10:45-11:00 | COFFEE | |
| 11:00-12:30 | Synthesis of main findings | All |
| 12:30-13:30 | LUNCH | |
| 13:30-15:00 | Group discussion on the main findings | Dr. Albert Rouamba & Dr. Joachim Binam |
| 15:00-15:30 | COFFEE | |
| 15:30-16:00 | Presentation of group findings | Dr. Catherine Dembele/Aruna /Marc |
| 16:00-17:00 | Concluding Session | Dr. Birhanu Zemadim |

Annex 2: List of participants

| N° | First name | Last name | Institution | Phone number | Email |
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